

Inventors: Budd O. Libby, et al.
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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated November 22, 2006, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected pending claims 1-12 and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graves. As to claims 1-2, 9, 14 and 16, the Examiner asserts that Graves teaches the invention of a bingo game apparatus that comprises a random number generator which provides the sequence of numbers for the bingo game, an animation drawing subsystem in which prerecorded video clips are played corresponding to each drawn bingo number, and a remote point of sale site where participants purchase bingo tickets electronically through a remote computer before the game starts. According to the Examiner, the prerecorded video clips in Graves can take the form of a live or prerecorded videotaped announcer. The Examiner further asserts that as the bingo game progresses, the host computer transmits data and code related to the prerecorded clips which are stored at the remote terminals. The remote terminals, according to the Examiner, compile a video representation of the bingo game.

As to claims 3-6, 8, 11-12, and 17-19, the Examiner contends that a verifier computer receives randomly drawn numbers of the bingo game and the serial number of the winning card. Following an algorithm, the Graves system determines if there is a winner and ends or continues the game depending on the result. As to claims 7, 10, and 15, the Examiner contends that Graves uses a network that includes a game host or central system linked to the Internet to remote sites, where player can participate using software installed on the host and remote systems.

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The Examiner concedes that Graves lacks an animation drawing system on the bingo web server or on the host side of the network, but contends that applicants have not disclosed any particular problem that this approach solves. The Examiner also contends that the invention would perform equally well with the animation subsystem at either location. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill to modify Graves to locate the animation system on the server side, since location of the animation subsystem is a mere design consideration that provides an insufficient distinction over Graves.

Applicants respectfully traverse these obviousness rejections. The invention set forth in the amended claims relates to a lottery system that uses an animation system in the form of a bingo game to announce the winner of the lottery. All of the participants select the desired numbers ahead of time when they purchase their lottery ticket, and these numbers are entered into the host computer. When the time period for entering the lottery ends, and the time comes to select a winner, the host computer randomly generates a series of winning numbers. At the appropriate time, the system creates a video of an actual or animated person or a "cartoon character," for example, announcing the winner by creating a simulated bingo game, which can be broadcast on television, for example. The claimed method and apparatus for announcement of lottery winners, when included as part of a lottery system, help to maintain the interest of customers while helping to avoid many of the costs and difficulties associated with the production of a live television segment to select and announce lottery winners with live announcers.

Graves is directed to a bingo game computer system wherein a number of players at the same or multiple sites can obtain Internet access to an actual bingo game

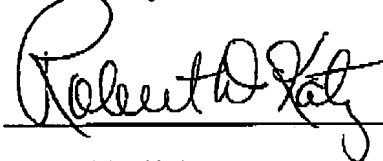
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hosted remotely. Graves contains no discussion of how to operate a lottery game, much less a lottery that uses a simulated bingo game format to announce randomly select lottery winners. As a result, the obviousness rejection based upon Graves seems misplaced and should be withdrawn.

In summary, applicants have disclosed and claimed a lottery game that includes a bingo simulation to announce lottery winners. The references of record neither disclose nor suggest such a method nor the apparatus to carry it out. Applicants submit, therefore, that the pending obviousness rejection should be withdrawn and the claims allowed forthwith.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment to Deposit Account 03-3125. If any additional extension of time is required, applicants hereby request same and authorize the Commissioner to charge the fee therefore to deposit account no. 03-3125.

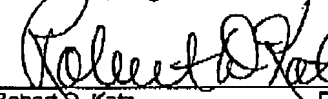
Respectfully submitted,



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 4/23/07
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